

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1, 3, 4, 6 and 12 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found at least in previously presented claim 2. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 12 have been amended to alter their dependencies from claim 2 to claim 1. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. January 13, 2009 Telephone Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner McCalister during the January 13, 2009 telephone interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings as allegedly failing to depict the parallel bore discussed at least at paragraph [0021] of the published specification. A replacement drawing sheet has been submitted for Figs. 4a and 4b. Fig. 4a has been amended to clearly depict the parallel bore, which is labeled with reference numeral 21.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,289,160 to Kawasaki et al. (hereinafter "Kawasaki"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action indicates that claims 2-6 and 8-16 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 2. Therefore, as discussed during the January 13, 2009 telephone interview, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-16 are also allowable for at least their various dependencies from claim 1 as well as for the additional features they recite.

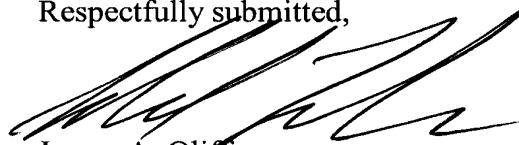
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SQV/hs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Replacement Drawing Sheet

Date: February 9, 2009

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